

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **PUBLIC FACILITIES PLAN**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The final element of a comprehensive plan is the Public Facilities Plan. Its purpose is to determine if current public facilities meet both existing and future needs. Facility costs and financing are not considered in the Public Facilities Plan, but must be included in a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) if and when the County decides to prepare a CIP. The methodology of preparing the Public Facilities Plan is inherently dependent on the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan such as the population projections. This Public Facilities Plan section consists of an analysis of existing conditions within each component of the County's public facilities. Existing conditions serve as a baseline for projecting future needs based on projected growth rates, need for new services and anticipated population levels throughout the planning timeframe.

#### **SECTION 1: PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM**

An evaluation of existing facilities is the first step in determining the need for library system improvements. However, according to the American Library Association, the system's needs for the next 20 years should be considered. Since Mississippi Law also requires that a comprehensive plan, including a public facilities plan, encompass at least a 20-year period, this time-frame is consistent.

The Lamar County Library System's beginnings date back to the 1920's and has evolved and grown over its nearly ninety-year history. In 1997 the Lamar County system officially separated from the Hattiesburg – Forrest County Library System and began to operate independently. The library is managed by an executive director and governed by a five-member board of trustees representing each of the five supervisor districts. Each member of the Board of Trustees is appointed by his or her respective Supervisor.

The Lamar County Library System currently operates four facilities located throughout the County in Sumrall, Lumberton, Purvis, and Oak Grove. The Oak Grove facility is the newest, having grown out of increasing populations in the Oak Grove Community and the need to expand library facilities.

The library system is primarily funded through the Lamar County Board of Supervisors but also receives funding through the Mississippi Library Commission, donations, fees and fines, and external grant sources. The library system also receives indirect funding through the Friends of the Library organization and the Cities of Lumberton, Purvis and Sumrall.



The current library system was evaluated for both the current (2007) adequacy of the library system and the future year -2030 needs of the system in terms of accepted standards used by the American Library Association (ALA). Table IV- 1 below reflects the ALA standards for minimum building space requirements according to the population of the service area.

**TABLE IV- 1  
MINIMUM SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR LIBRARIES**

<b>Service Area Population</b>	<b>Minimum Total Floor Space</b>
Under 2,499	2,000 square feet
2,500-4,999	2,500 square feet or 0.7 square feet per capita, whichever is greater
5,000-9,999	3,500 square feet or 0.7 square feet per capita, whichever is greater
10,000-24,999	7,000 square feet or 0.7 square feet per capita, whichever is greater
Over 25,000	15,000 square feet or 0.6 square feet per capita, whichever is greater

Source: American Library Association

#### **Current Library System Needs**

Information provided by Lamar County Board of Supervisors, County Administrator and Library System Executive Director indicates the existing floor area for each of the four facilities in the library system as:

Oak Grove:	7,662 square feet
Purvis:	4,360 square feet
Sumrall:	3,496 square feet
Lumberton	3,662 square feet
<b>TOTAL EXISTING:</b>	<b>19,180 square feet</b>

Table IV-2 indicates the present library needs in terms of building size for each library in the Lamar County Library System according to the 2007 estimate of population of Lamar County. Using the 2007 Lamar County population estimate of 46,877, and applying ALA size standards, the Library System should now have a total space of 28,126 square feet in all four libraries combined.

**Table IV-2**  
**Determination of *Current Year* Library Needs**

2007 Service Area Population	46,877
Total Current Size of All Buildings (sq. feet)	19,180
Estimated 2007 Space Needs Using ALA Standard (0.6 square feet per capita)	28,126
2007 Space Deficit:	-8,946

Sources: 2007 Population Estimate: CMPDD  
Building Size Information: Lamar County Library System  
Standards: American Library Association

### **Findings and Recommendations**

The American Library Association provides a consistent set of standards and guidelines by which library systems can measure their effectiveness both from an administrative and facility perspective. To ensure consistency with other library systems around the country, the ALA standards were used as a guide to determine current adequacy and future needs of the Lamar County Library System. The needs of the Lamar County Library System were projected to the year 2030 (see Table IV- 3). If the population of the Lamar County increases at the rate expected, the system will need an additional 55,898 square feet to meet the demand based upon ALA standards.

1. The Oak Grove Public Library should be expanded to not only meet the current needs of the area but to also address the future needs of the rapidly expanding Oak Grove area. Current demand of carrel space will only increase and should be a high priority within the proposed expansion.
2. The Purvis Library should be upgraded and expanded or a new building should be erected. If a new site is considered, the new site should remain within the downtown Purvis area; this preservation of location should be done to remain within close proximity to other county administrative offices within the downtown Purvis area.
3. The Lumberton Library should be expanded to include storage areas and library staff room. The recent expansion has eased the needs for added collections space.
4. L.R. Boyer Memorial Library, located in Sumrall, should be expanded or relocated to meet the current needs and future needs of a rapidly growing Sumrall area. General collections, children's books and multimedia should be the focus of the expanded library.

5. The administrative services component of the Lamar County Library System has recently relocated to the Lamar County Office Complex. The relocation of administrative services from the main library facility will provide some additional patron space. However, the figures used to calculate space needs are based on gross floor area and do not make a distinction between administrative space and patron space.

**Table IV- 3**  
**Determination of Year-2030 Library Space Needs**

2030 Projected Lamar County Population	75,078
Minimum ALA Standard for Library Serving this Size Population in 2030 (entire system)	45,047 sq. ft.
Total Present Library Space and Committed Expansions	19,180 sq. ft.
Total 2030 Projected Space: Deficit	-55,898 sq. ft.

Sources: - 2030 Population Projection: CMPDD  
- Standards: American Library Association

### Summary

Based on the analysis of existing library facilities and projections of future needs within the library system it is determined that the current library system does not meet the current standard as established by the ALA. In addition, the projected growth rate of the County indicates that projected needs will increase proportionally as the County's population increases. In order to maintain the ALA standard and ensure that library facilities continue to meet the needs of a growing County it will be necessary to aggressively pursue external funding opportunities such as grants, trusts and endowments. Particular attention must be paid to areas of the County projected to grow most significantly over the next twenty years to ensure that resources are allocated to those areas of the County with the greatest need and demand.

## **SECTION 2: FIRE PROTECTION**

### **Findings**

Lamar County currently has ten volunteer fire departments in eight fire districts: Northeast, Oak Grove, Central Lamar, Progress Fire Protection District, Southwest, Beaver Lake, the Oloh Fire Protection District and Southeast. Within these eight districts and ten VFDs exist seventeen fire stations with an additional eight stations planned. The existing fire stations have MS State Rating Bureau Insurance Class Ratings that range from a 7 in the Northeast Lamar VFD to a 10 in both the Southwest VFD and the Purvis VFD.

The fire response areas, station locations and number of volunteers for each County VFD is as follows, the total number of volunteers at each department is based on the most recent County Wildfire Protection Plan and is subject to change as personnel fluctuations occur:

### **Other Related Plans**

The Lamar County Wildfire Protection Plan provides a strategic approach to protection of County assets particularly in the Wildland-Urban Interface, where increasing development activities merge with undeveloped lands within the County. The most recent plan (2005-2006) is currently in the process of being updated and the revised plan is scheduled for completion in late summer or early fall of 2008.

The Wildfire Protection Plan provides an overview of the planning area and firefighting resources that exist within the planning area. According to the plan and as evidenced in this plan, the County's firefighting resources are all-volunteer and are coordinated through a central Fire Coordinator that exists as an employee of the County.

The plan also outlines specific goals and strategies for managing protective services against wildfires and provides an assessment of the known risk areas, vulnerable facilities, areas of community importance, areas with a history or with the potential for a high occurrence of wildfires, and areas that pose significant fuel hazards.

Finally, the plan offers a listing of potential mitigation projects that are designed to eliminate or minimize risks and damages associated with wildfires in Lamar County and provides potential funding sources for implementation of the recommended mitigation strategies.

## Recommendations

The volunteer fire departments in Lamar County typically operate outside of the influence of the Board of Supervisors with the exception of the Fire Coordinator position that exists as a paid position hired through the County. In addition, the County will often provide matching funds and administrative support to individual departments for the purpose of securing outside funding for equipment and vehicle purchases. Outside of those influences, the growth and evolution of the volunteer fire departments is largely in the hands of the departments themselves. As evidenced in the summary information the departments are generally in a mode of growth that appears to be consistent with the rate of growth of Lamar County.

Due to security concerns, fire department personnel were reluctant to have published maps of fire station locations included as a part of this plan. Therefore, the recommendations included herein are general in nature and it is assumed that each district and VFD will assume responsibility for planning efforts designed to ensure that appropriate response times are maintained and that growth of each department continues to match the growth of the specific regions of the county that they serve. The Northeast VFD has provided a model for other departments through the development of a 5-year Planning Study conducted in 2006 as well as a departmental Standard of Response Coverage conducted in 2005. Each individual district and department is encouraged to follow the lead of the Northeast VFD by engaging in similar planning activities.



### SECTION 3: SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

#### Findings

The Lamar County Sheriff's Office and Jail are located in downtown Purvis at the Lamar County Law Enforcement Complex, which also houses the Justice Court. Current jail facilities have a capacity of 164 inmates and average 130-140 inmates at any given time. Jail facilities are enforced by a staff of 26 jailers, two of which are transport officers, while another two oversee inmates on litter removal road crews.

Jail cells that would normally hold 12 inmates are currently being used to house 5-7 mental patients that are not considered prisoners, placing the current capacity for prisoners at 152.

There are currently no facilities for juvenile offenders. Lamar County currently leases one bed space from Forrest County in the amount of \$23,000.00 per year. Based on general assumptions and conversations with Lamar County law enforcement officials, the number of beds currently allocated for juvenile offenders is inadequate. However, according to the May 2008 report on juvenile offenders from the Mississippi Department of Corrections, there is a total of 1,472 juvenile offenders currently housed in a variety of facilities. Of the 1,472 juveniles currently housed, only eight are located in county or regional correction facilities with another six located in community work centers. In addition, another 172 are housed in either approved county jails, unapproved county jails or through court order. The most logical approach to the housing of juvenile offenders is through a regional approach with a single facility serving the needs of multiple counties.

The Sheriff's Office has 79 total employees, 39 of which are deputy sheriffs, one of which is on military leave. 24 of the deputy sheriffs are patrol or "road" deputies whom work 12 hour shifts. Four of the 24 patrol deputies have been pulled to work on a special gang/task force to work the heaviest areas in terms of calls for service. These officers are still considered patrol officers but works in concentrated areas at peak times. There are never less than three deputies on patrol at any one time. Of the remaining employees, 26 are jailers. There are currently 14 civilian personnel working within the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff's departments typically run fewer law enforcement officers per 1,000 population than city police forces, because they patrol mostly rural areas. The ratio of patrol or "road" deputies in Lamar County is *one for every 1,953 persons in the unincorporated areas* (2007 estimate of 46,877 persons in the unincorporated area divided by 24 patrol deputies = 1,953 persons). This *patrol deputy ratio* is used rather than *total deputies* because the number of "road" deputies provides a more accurate picture of the County's law enforcement needs. However, the ratio of total deputies to the unincorporated population is **one for every 725 persons**.

## Recommendations

As with other critical services provided by Lamar County, the Sheriff's Department must ensure that its facility and personnel needs continue to be consistent with the rate of growth in the County. To ensure consistency with rates of growth, the department must plan facility needs in advance of growth rates. In other words, plans for a new jail and law enforcement complex must be designed to meet the needs through the projected lifespan of the planned facility. To that end, the following recommendations are considered:

Using the same ratio of deputies to population for the 2030 projection (Table II-3) of 75,078 persons, the County will need approximately **39 total patrol deputies** by 2030 to police the unincorporated areas with the same ratio of patrol deputies to population that currently exists.

- If the ratio of total deputies to population remains the same, the Sheriff's office will need a total of **62 deputies**, including the 39 patrol deputies based on the population projection of 75,078 by 2030.
- The current ratio of sheriff's deputies (plus the Sheriff) to civilian employees is 2.78 to 1 (14 civilian employees divided by 39 deputies plus the Sheriff, or  $39 = 2.78$ ). Using this ratio to project the need for civilian personnel to the year 2030, there will be a need for **8 additional civilian personnel** in twenty-six years. The ratio of deputies to civilian employees in a county sheriff's department are not necessarily consistent. However, the same ratios can be used as a rough guide to determine the number of civilian employees required based on a given population.
- By the year 2030, it is projected that the County jail will need a minimum of 263 beds. This is based upon the assumption that the County will need approximately one bed for every 285 persons residing in unincorporated portions of the County, based upon the current ratio (46,877 persons divided by the 2007 number of beds of 164 = 285; thus, the 2030 population projection of 75,078 divided by 285 = 263 beds).
- Based upon the projected growth of the County and the current need for just one more bed for juvenile offenders, there will be a need for 2 beds for juveniles by 2030 (assuming 1 bed for every 46,877 persons residing in the county). However, assuming the annual cost of \$23,000 for one "leased" juvenile bed from Forrest County, a more economical approach would be to include provisions for juvenile space in a planned jail facility. Assuming construction costs of \$150-\$200 per square foot for a new jail facility, the county can assume a one-time cost for the provision of 4 juvenile beds that could be absorbed over time by eliminating the payment of \$23,000 annually to Forrest County.

**TABLE IV-4**  
**ESTIMATED/PROJECTED SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AND SPACE**  
**NEEDS**

	<b>2007 Personnel, Bldg. Space &amp; Jail Beds</b>	<b>Estimated 2030 Projected Need</b>
Population(Unincorporated) (1)	46,877	75,078
Patrol Deputies	24	39
Total Deputies	39	62
Civilian Personnel	14	22
Total Personnel	77	123
Actual and Projected Need for Jail Beds	164	263
Beds for Juveniles	1	4

- (1) This is estimated population of Lamar County residing in unincorporated areas. This estimate is based upon the CMPDD's 2030 estimate of the population of Lamar County (75,078-see Table II-3) times the percent increase in population (62%) in the study area.

## **SECTION 4: PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

### **Introduction and Methodology**

As with other sections of this *Public Facilities Plan*, the approach taken in the evaluation of Lamar County's need in terms of parks/recreational facilities and open space is to apply accepted standards to the current supply and projected 2030 needs. The 2030 needs are based upon the population projections prepared by the CMPDD. In this case, the standards used are contained in the *Mississippi State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*. The most recent SCORP (2003) provides "prototype standards" for various classifications of parks and facilities, and these prototype standards are based upon acres or units needed for every 1,000 persons. It should be noted that the SCORP is in the process of being updated for 2008 but was not available at the time of preparation of this plan.

### **Prototype Standards**

The SCORP contains prototype standards for eight classifications of parks/recreational facilities and open space facilities. However, the first two classifications, "playlots" and "neighborhood playgrounds," are not included in this evaluation of future needs. "Playlots" are parks that are intended for use by young children and are generally located at an elementary school. "Neighborhood Playgrounds," which are usually intended for both pre-school and school-age children are also commonly located on a public school site. Therefore, for the purposes of this plan, it is assumed that most of the County's needs for playlots and neighborhood playgrounds will be met through the use of public school facilities.

The prototype standards for other SCORP classifications are as follows:

#### **Neighborhood Parks:**

*Description:* Neighborhood parks provide a variety of recreational opportunities, passive and active, potentially organized or unorganized for all age groups.

*Facilities:* Neighborhood parks usually include children's play apparatus, paved multipurpose courts, sports fields, small picnic areas and shelters, drinking fountains, walking/jogging or nature trails, and off-street parking and lighting.

*Minimum Population Served:* 5,000

*Acres per 1,000 persons:* 3.5 acres for every 5,000 persons in the service area.

*Service Area:* ½ mile in urbanized areas; 3 miles in rural areas.

*Optimum Size:* 5 to 7 acres.

*Population Served:* All ages.

*Location:* Neighborhood parks are usually located central to the population being served, without the need to cross arterial streets or highways. These parks are commonly located in an area characterized by some natural features.

### **Community Playfields:**

*Description:* Community playfields are large outdoor recreational areas -- primarily athletic complexes -- designed to serve competitive and recreational needs of children, pre-teens, teenagers, and adults. Playfields may provide a variety of organized activities and may have the potential to provide for competitive events and tournaments.

*Facilities:* The predominant facilities in this classification are athletic fields for sport such as soccer, football, baseball, etc. Playfields may also include court games such as tennis. Other potential facilities include lighting, sanitary facilities, concessions, storage areas, adequate parking, and spectator seating. Playfields may include some picnic facilities, shelters, children's play areas, and special purpose facilities such as a swimming pool.

*Minimum Population Served:* 10,000

*Acres per 1,000 persons:* 10 acres for every 10,000 persons in the service area.

*Service Area:* 5 miles in urbanized areas; 10 miles in rural areas.

*Optimum Size:* 10 to 15 acres

*Population Served:* Entire population of a community, focusing on ages 9 to 39.

*Location:* Playfields may be located on the outskirts of a community, or may be a portion of a "major community park." In areas around public schools, the physical education and athletic facilities may qualify to serve as community playfields. In rural areas, community playfields may be located in conjunction with other major outdoor recreational areas or facilities such as lakes and reservoirs.

### **Major Community Parks**

*Description:* A major community park is a large natural and/or landscaped area, designed to accommodate large numbers of people for a wide variety of both intensive uses and passive pursuits. Major community parks provide facilities for both intensive uses and passive pursuits.

*Facilities:* There is almost no limit to the variety of facilities that may be found in the major community park, but these typically include such items as play equipment, picnic facilities, paths, trails, pavilions, zoos or museums, and golf or swimming facilities.

*Minimum Population Served:* 20,000

*Acres per 1,000 persons:* 20 acres for every 20,000 persons in the service area. *Service Area:* 5 miles in urbanized areas; 10 miles in rural areas.

*Optimum Size:* 24 to 40 acres.

*Population Served:* All ages.

*Location:* In or near urbanized areas, major community parks are commonly located along an unusual land feature such as floodplain, rivers, or lakes. In rural areas, a major community park may be a county park.

### **Single or Special Purpose Facilities:**

*Description:* The chief characteristic of a single/special purpose recreational facility is usually uniqueness or singleness of purpose. These include an unlimited variety of facilities providing individual as well as group activities.

*Facilities and Standard per 1,000 persons:*

- Baseball diamonds: (regulation 90 feet) 1 for every 6,000 persons
- Softball diamonds: 1 for every 3,000 persons.
- Tennis courts: (best in battery of four) 1 court for every 2,000 persons
- Soccer fields: 1 for every 4,000 persons
- Basketball courts: 1 for every 1,000 persons
- Swimming pools (25 yard): 1 for every 10,000 persons
- Swimming pools (50 yard): 1 for every 30,000 persons
- Neighborhood centers: 1 for every 10,000 persons
- Community centers: 1 for every 25,000 persons
- Golf courses (18 hole): 1 for every 25,000 persons
- Walking/bicycle trails: 1 for every 5,000 persons

*Service Area:* Generally limited to serving a population within ½ hour travel time of the facility.

*Population served:* All ages.

*Location:* Single/special purpose facilities may be located in other types, but should be as central and convenient to the users as possible.

### **Urban Greenspace or Open Space**

*Description:* Urban greenspace or open space includes areas provided mainly for their aesthetic and/or environmental enhancement qualities. They may be used for passive or active recreational activities, festivals, special observances/occasions, or other community activities.

*Facilities:* Urban greenspace or open space can include various possibilities and combinations such as natural wooded or open lands (fields), floodplain, river corridors, streambanks, parkways, street medians and shoulder ways, areas around public buildings, town squares, etc. Improvements may include bicycle trails and bicycle racks, hiking or nature trails, or bridle trails.

*Acres per 1,000 persons:* .75 to 1 acres per 1,000 persons.

*Service Area:* Variable, may service primarily people living in a particular area such as a neighborhood or subdivision, or may service anyone passing through an area.

*Optimum Size:* Variable, may range from a few feet, as in the case of floral areas, to several hundred acres, as in the case of a floodplain.

*Population Served:* All ages.

*Location:* The location of urban greenspace or open space often depends on the availability of land and water resources. Open space may be a part of a park system or serve as linkage ways between recreation areas and facilities. It may be viewed as part of an urban beautification program or downtown revitalization effort, or it may be part of easements such as electrical power line or gas line easements (a "linear park").

### **Regional Parks**

*Description:* Regional Parks serve multiple governmental units and are usually administered by counties, regional bodies, or through other types of cooperative agency agreements. Regional parks serve both active and passive recreational needs for both day and overnight activities.

*Facilities:* Regional parks may contain picnic areas, nature centers, trail system, scenic drives, campgrounds, water areas for swimming, fishing and boating, golf courses, concession and sanitary facilities, athletic complexes, sports fields, single/special purpose facilities, and parking.

*Minimum Population:* 50,000.

*Acres per 1,000 persons:* 1,000 acres for every 50,000 persons.

*Service Area:* Multiple counties, regional, and/or multiple cities. Regional parks serve mainly persons located within one hour travel time of the park.

*Optimum Size:* 1,000 to 2,500 acres.

*Population Served:* All ages.

*Location:* The location of regional parks is largely dependent upon the availability of natural or manmade resources such as lakes and reservoirs.

**TABLE IV-5:  
CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES  
LAMAR COUNTY (UNINCORPORATED)**

<b>Area/Facility</b>	<b>2007 Estimated Population</b>	<b>2008 Need</b>	<b>2030 Projected Population</b>	<b>2030 Projected Need</b>
Neighborhood Parks	46,877	32 Acres Approx. 9 parks	75,078	52.55 Acres – Approx. 17 parks
Major Community Parks	46,877	At least two major Community parks with approx. 25 acres per park	75,078	At least four major community parks with at least 25 acres per park
Community Playfields	46,877	At least four community playfields containing 10-15 acres each	75,078	At least seven community playfields containing 10-15 acres each
Baseball Diamonds	46,877	At least eight baseball diamonds	75,078	At least thirteen baseball diamonds
Softball Diamonds	46,877	At least sixteen softball diamonds	75,078	At least twenty-five softball diamonds
Tennis Courts (Best in batteries of four)	46,877	At least twenty-four tennis courts	75,078	At least thirty-eight tennis courts
Soccer Fields	46,877	At least twelve soccer fields	75,078	At least 19 soccer fields
Basketball Courts	46,877	At least forty- seven basket ball courts	75,078	At least seventy-five basketball courts
Swimming Pools	46,877	At least two 50-yard or four 25-yard swimming pools	75,078	At least three 50-yard swimming pools or eight 25-yard pools
Neighborhood Centers	46,877	At least five neighborhood centers	75,078	At least eight neighborhood Centers



Area/Facility	2007 Estimated Population	2008 Need	2030 Projected Population	2030 Projected Need
Pedestrian/Bicycle Trails	46,877	At least nine trails	75,078	At least fifteen trails
Urban Greenspace/ Regional Parks	46,877		75,078	

SOURCES: 2007 Population estimate and 2030 population projection: CMPDD/ESI

Standards for recommendations: SCORP

### Recommendations:

1. In accordance with the Goals, Objectives and Policies (Chapter I), the Board of Supervisors should appoint a volunteer Parks and Recreation Commission to review the County's parks and recreation needs, recommend the best locations for facilities, and investigate funding sources of funding for parks and recreational facilities.
2. The demand for parks and recreational facilities shown in Table IV-5 is based upon the assumption that there will be *additional needs beyond those that the cities and towns can meet*. Therefore, the County Parks and Recreation Commission should review the County's needs using the standards in Table IV-5 as a yardstick.
3. The Longleaf Trace, a Rails to Trails Conservancy Project, services Lamar, Jefferson Davis and Forrest county with a trail of over 40 miles for walking, biking and horseback riding of which, about fifteen miles run through the northeastern portion of Lamar County. Outdoor enthusiasts from all over the country come to Lamar County to experience the Longleaf Trace. It is recommended that Lamar County explore the potential of creating a new branch off of the Longleaf Trace that would run from North to South throughout the county to reach more residents of Lamar County and to increase regional tourism.
4. The County should consider adopting policies within its Subdivision Regulations that establish minimum requirements for functional open space and common areas. The establishment of these policies will reduce the public burden of providing neighborhood parks, community playfields and potentially even major community parks by ensuring that these amenities are included in the development of new residential subdivision communities.
5. The YMCA currently has plans to construct a facility in Lamar County. At this time it appears that the YMCA will be constructed in the northeast portion of the County. YMCA facilities are generally multi-faceted in terms of the types of recreation and wellness programs that they provide, making classification of the facility difficult without full knowledge of amenities to be included in the facility. However it is known at this point that the facility will include approximately 70,000 square feet of building space and will include an indoor walking track. The inclusion of the YMCA facility in Lamar County will effectively address wellness and fitness related needs for the foreseeable future.

## **SECTION 5: PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

### **Findings**

Lamar County has two public school districts: the Lamar County School District and the Lumberton School District. This study only encompasses the unincorporated regions of Lamar County and therefore, this Comprehensive Plan does not include recommendations for the Lumberton School District. It is also important to note that the district approved a bond issue in 2007 that provided for additional classroom space and that is designed to ensure adequacy of facilities at least for the foreseeable future though the additional facilities will, in all likelihood not be adequate through the 30-year projection of this comprehensive plan. Though the Lamar County School District covers the majority of Lamar County, it should be noted that the Lumberton School District, existing as a separate municipal school district, is not included in this analysis and recommendations. In addition, a small portion of the City of Hattiesburg School District exists in Lamar County. This area of the Hattiesburg District is located south of Hardy Street, east of Interstate 59 and west of 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue. However, the number of children attending Hattiesburg Schools within this area is not of significance in terms of the potential impact to Lamar County enrollment numbers or facility needs projections.

Eco-Systems conducted an interview with Mr. Johnny Downs, Assistant Superintendent for Operations of the Lamar County School District. In that interview, Mr. Downs provided current enrollment and facility capacity figures as well as insight into the District's strategic and facility planning process. The District is currently in the process of developing five and ten year facility plans as well as giving consideration to redrawing existing attendance zones. The following table provides historic and projected enrollment data for the Lamar County School District by school:

School		Enrollment History - School Years						Enrollment Projections-School Years					
2002-2003		2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	
Baxterville													
Actual	196	202	187	217									
ESI/CMPDD				213	220	233	234	244	252	257	266		
Oak Grove Primary													
Actual	*	*	*	*	765								
ESI/CMPDD					798	833	860	894	925	956	988		
Oak Grove Lower													
Actual	1,175	1,345	1,366	1,527									
ESI/CMPDD					720	751	784	809	841	870	899	929	
Oak Grove Middle													
Actual	926	944	1,013	1,040									
ESI/CMPDD					1,084	1,132	1,167	1,213	1,254	1,295	1,338	1,379	
Oak Grove Upper													
Actual	600	634	657	706									
ESI/CMPDD					735	771	809	842	879	914	949	986	
Oak Grove High													
Actual	1,116	1,133	1,202	1,326									
ESI/CMPDD					1,369	1,466	1,549	1,619	1,709	1,785	1,865	1,949	
Purvis Lower Elem.													
Actual	*	*	*	*									
ESI/CMPDD					360	375	392	405	421	436	450	465	
Purvis Upper Elem.													
Actual	516	529	539	545									
ESI/CMPDD					360	375	392	405	421	436	450	465	
Purvis Middle													
Actual	462	479	474	446									
ESI/CMPDD					452	436	425	419	406	397	388	377	
Purvis High													
Actual	503	490	475	520									
ESI/CMPDD					506	521	537	537	552	560	568	580	
Sumrall Elementary													
Actual	565	573	595	625									
ESI/CMPDD					640	666	689	709	733	755	777	800	
Sumrall Middle													
Actual					349	360							
ESI/CMPDD*	*	*	*				376	388	403	417	431	445	
Sumrall High													
Actual	698	692	683	745	443	450							
ESI/CMPDD							470	485	504	522	539	557	
Total Enrollment													
Actual	6,757	7,021	7,191	7,697									
ESI/CMPDD					7,996	8,321	8,656	8,925	9,261	9,564	9,867	10,186	
% Change		3.9%	2.4%	7.0%	2.8%	4.3%	4.4%	3.2%	3.9%	3.5%	3.3%	3.3%	

Source: SchoolMatters, 20; Note: Figures shown in red represent enrollment figures prior to implementation of the bond issue

## Recommendations

The information obtained from both the interview with school administrators during the goals and objectives component of the planning process and subsequent interviews and discussions provides us with the conclusion that managing growth within the school district relative to the growth of the county will continue to be one of the greatest challenges that Lamar County will face moving forward to the future. It is apparent that the overall growth of the County is outpacing the ability of the school district to keep up. Strategies related to attendance zone allocation, funding of new and expanded facilities and transportation issues for the school district must be approached from a proactive point of view with the goal of attempting to plan well in advance of projected growth rates. The following table provides school enrollment, facility capacity, and an estimated date that each school will reach capacity based on the projected enrollment figures in the previous table.

<b>Schools</b>	<b>Current Enrollment</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Estimated Date of Full Capacity</b>
<b><i>Sumrall</i></b>			
High School	450	525	2011-2012
Middle School	350	500	2014-2015
Elementary	720	720	2010-2011
<b><i>Oak Grove</i></b>			
High School	1280	1280	At Capacity
Middle School	1050	1050	At Capacity
Upper Elementary	750	750	At Capacity
Lower Elementary	720	720	At Capacity
Primary	710	800	2008-2009
<b><i>Purvis</i></b>			
High School	510	510	At Capacity
Middle School	360	360	At Capacity
Upper Elementary	360	400	2009-2010
Lower Elementary	360	400	2009-2010
<b><i>Baxterville</i></b>			
Attendance Center	220	250	2011-2012

Based on the information provided in the previous table, all existing schools in the Lamar County School District will be at or over capacity by 2015 at the latest with many already at full capacity and others projected to reach full capacity within the next one to two years. Given this very serious consideration, it is recommended that the District aggressively pursue the completion of the pending facility plans and give consideration to significant expansions of District facilities within the next one to two years. In addition, the District should also immediately consider adjustments to attendance zones in an effort to equalize attendance across existing facilities.

## SECTION 6: PUBLIC BUILDINGS

### Summary

The CMPDD/ESI reviewed space demands for four buildings that are used as County administrative offices or for various courts. These buildings are shown in Table IV-7 as follows with the estimated total square footage in each:

**TABLE IV-7  
EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE/ COURT BUILDINGS**

<b>BUILDING</b>	<b>ESTIMATED SQUARE FOOTAGE</b>	<b>LOCATED IN THIS BUILDING</b>
Circuit Courthouse	24,000	Circuit Clerk Circuit Court Elections
Chancery Courthouse	22,000	Board of Supervisors Chancery Clerk Chancery Court Administrative Offices
Lamar County Office Complex	18,000	GIS, E-911 Planning and Zoning Tax Assessor / Collector Library Administrative Services
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64,000</b>	

Source: Lamar County Administrator's Office

The CMPDD also examined the number of personnel housed in these buildings. The number of employees housed in each office are shown in Table IV-8, with the offices housed in one of the five buildings listed above are so indicated.

**TABLE IV-8: COUNTY EMPLOYEES IN VARIOUS OFFICES**

DEPARTMENT NAME	BUILDING WHERE HOUSED	TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
Board of Supervisors	Chancery Courthouse	5
County Administrator	Chancery Courthouse	5
Building and Grounds	Multipurpose Center	10
Chancery Clerk Office	Chancery Courthouse	5
Chancery Court	Chancery Courthouse	2
Circuit Clerk Office	Circuit Courthouse	10
Comptroller	Accounting Building	6
County Agent	4-H Building	4
County Attorney	Law Complex	1
County Court	Gamble Office Building	6
GIS	Lamar County Office Complex	1
District Attorney	Gamble Office Building	4
E-911	Lamar County Office Complex	2
Justice Court	Law Complex	6
Planning and Zoning	Lamar County Office Complex	4
Road Department	Various Locations	5
Solid Waste Disposal	Sanitation Complex	1
Tax Aseessor/Collector	Lamar County Office Complex	19
Veteran's Services	4-H Building	1
Youth Services	Gamble Building	7
Road Manager	Chancery Courthouse	2
TOTAL (Excluding Sheriff's Office-Addressed in Section 3)		106

Source: County Administrator's Office

The application of an architectural standard of 330 square feet per employee for personnel housed in the five administrative/ court buildings results in the estimate of office space needs shown in Table IV-9. This estimate of office space needs includes room for storage, restrooms, filing, office equipment; however, *this does not include courtroom space, conference room space and other space needs*. If this architectural standard is applied as a "yardstick" for measuring current County office needs, it appears that the addition of the Lamar County Office Complex combined with the potential reuse of other facilities vacated to occupy the Lamar County Office Complex provides ample administrative office space.

Lamar County recently purchased an office building containing approximately 18,000 square feet that will eventually house the Tax Assessor/Collector's office, Economic Development, E-911, Planning, the Coroner and Mapping Departments. The inclusion of this facility in the County's inventory will effectively erase potential administrative space deficits. The buildings being vacated by the various departments moving to the Lamar County Office Complex will be occupied by other County departments for both short and long-term uses. However, the inclusion of the Lamar County Office Complex into the County's inventory of resources significantly reduces the pressures for additional administrative space and will provide the County with increased flexibility for future office space demands and needs.

### **Recommendations**

The addition of the Lamar County Office Complex to the County's inventory of assets and the reallocation of personnel to this facility and to facilities vacated by departments moving to the Lamar County Office Complex effectively addresses the need for administrative office space for the foreseeable future.

**TABLE IV-10  
PROJECTED SPACE NEEDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE/ COURT FUNCTIONS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>POPULATION PROJECTION</b>	<b>SPACE NEEDS IN SQUARE FEET</b>
2010	50,731	58,848
2015	56,794	65,881
2020	62,886	72,948
2025	68,977	80,013
2030	75,078	87,090

Source: CMPDD/ESI

Based on the current ratio of building space for administrative and court functions of the County, as well as the projected space available in the newly purchased Lamar County Office Complex, no new administrative space will be required through 2010. Projecting these needs through 2030, the County will require an additional 12,551 square feet of administrative office space to continue to meet the administrative and court needs of the growing population. The need for additional office space through 2030 may also be offset by emerging plans for renovation of the Old Courthouse and further reallocation of space between administrative service units within the County.

## **SECTION 7 - LAMAR COUNTY SEWERAGE PLAN AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

All water and wastewater systems in the unincorporated areas of Lamar County are currently privately managed. Water systems are typically managed by rural water associations. Water associations in Mississippi are private associations and are usually managed by a board of directors elected from the association membership. Rural utility districts providing wastewater services generally fall into one of two categories. The first category is privately certificated systems that are generally decentralized systems confined to specific developments or subdivisions. Other rural utility districts are quasi-public with a board of directors appointed by the Lamar County Board of Supervisors. These rural utility districts are authorized through §19-5-151 through §19-5-207. Code §19-5-167 indicates that the Board of Supervisors has the authority to appoint board members to rural utility districts. However, the authority of the Board of Supervisors with respect to rural utility districts is limited to that appointment authority and that all other aspects of management of the district lies solely within the authority of the appointed board members. For the purpose of general and public information, this section of the Public Facilities Plan will include a listing of currently certificated rural water and wastewater systems as well as maps of the systems' certificated areas within Lamar County. The section does fall short of making specific recommendations for water and wastewater since those functions typically fall under the purview of private or quasi-public entities. The following tables provide a listing of both water and wastewater systems currently operating in Lamar County.



## LAMAR COUNTY WATER UTILITIES

Company Name	Contact	Address	Phone
Arnold Line Water Assn. Inc.	Mr. C. R. Dixon, President	104 River Oaks Drive Hattiesburg, MS 39401	601.264.7111
Big Bay Utilities, LLC	Mr. Jeffrey L. Hall, Counsel	JOHNSON, HALL & RATLIFF, PLLC 1300 Hardy Street Hattiesburg, MS 39404	601.582.4553
Canebrake Utilities Assn. Inc.	Mr. Bennett York, President	112 Sheffield Loop, Suite D Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.264.0403
City of Hattiesburg	Mr. Johnny L. Dupree, Mayor	P.O. Box 1898  Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1898	601.545.4502
Hub Water Assn.	Ms. Sharon Broom, Manager	1844 Highway 13 S. Columbia, MS 39429	601.736.0019
Lamar Park Water & Sewer Assn. Inc.	Mr. George Pessoney, President	2137 Oak Grove Road  Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.264.5933
Lowland Utility Assn. Inc.	Mr. Thomas G. Bass, President	Rt. 2 Box 234 Bassfield, MS 39421	601.943.5229
Mt. Gilead-Improve Water Assn.	Mr. Harry Williams, President	Rt. 3 Box 186 Columbia, MS 39429	601.736.4593
North Lamar Water Assn.	Mr. James McMahan, President	4906 Old Hwy. 11 Suite 8  Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.264.1157
North Lumberton Utility Assn. Inc.	Ms. Deborah R. Norton, Manager	410 North Front Street  Lumberton, MS 39455	601.796.4941

### Lamar County Water Utilities

Company Name	Contact	Address	Phone
Progress Community Water Assn. Mr	Mr. Danny Morrow, Manager	200 Mitchell Ave. Purvis, MS 39475	601.794.8664
West Lamar Water Assn. M	Mr. Neil Lofton, Manager	2716 Hwy. 589 Hattiesburg, MS 39482	601.264.6305

Lamar County Sewer Utilities			
Company Name	Contact	Address	Phone
Acadia Oaks Utilities, LLC	Mr. Craig Flanagan, President	28 Westlake Road Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.264.3682
Anglin Utility Company, LLC	Mr. Glenn Anglin, President	Anglin Utility Company, LLC 135 Vine Drive Brandon, MS 39047	601.573.0976
Bent Creek Utility, Inc.	Mr. Eddie Wilberding	23 Liberty Place Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.264.6804
Big Bay Utilities, LLC	Mr. Jeffrey L. Hall, Counsel	JOHNSON, HALL & RATLIFF, PLLC 1300 Hardy Street Hattiesburg, MS 39404	601.582.4553
Canebrake Utilities Assoc. Inc.	Mr. Bennett York, President	112 Sheffield Loop, Suite D Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.264.0403
Carriage Utilities, LLC	Mr. M. Jeff Palmer, President	6380 US Highway 98 West, Suite 1 Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.297.4400
David M. Cox Inc.	Ms. Karyn Walsh	#10 98 Place Blvd. Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.261.5522
East Lamar Utility Company, LLC	Mr. Robert M. Neill, Jr., Owner	19 Northshore Court Hattiesburg, MS 39404	601.271.2717
F & H Utilities, LLC	Mr. Craig Flanagan, Manager	P. O. Box 15033 Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.582.4553
Lamar Park Water & Sewer Assoc. Inc.	Mr. George Pessoney, President	2137 Oak Grove Road Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.264.5933
LePapillon Utility Company, LLC	Mr. M. Thomas Coggins, Manager	125 Monarch Boulevard Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.296.9528
MD Utilities, LLC	Ms. Jessica McDaniel, Manager	P. O. Box 1255 Saucier, MS 39574	601.408.2559
Mississippi Natural, Inc.	Mr. Robert M. Conrad, President	11284 Gulf Stream Road Arlington, TN 38002	901.867.2085
Norton Developments, Inc.	Mr. Thurmon Norton, President	5031 Old Highway 11 Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.268.2029
Sandstone Management, LLC	Mr. Herbert C. Clearman, Manager	P.O. Box 16073 Hattiesburg, MS 39404-	601.261.7363
Sienna Utilities, LLC	Mr. Andy Idom, Member	35 Westbrook Estates Drive Sumrall, MS 39482	601.758.0334
The Villages Utility Company, LLC	Mr. Hubert H. Stuart, Jr., Manager	7 Timberline Road Sumrall, MS 39482	601.758.4001

Lamar County Sewer Utilities			
Company Name	Contact	Address	Phone
The Woods Utility, LLC	Mr. Grif Leek, Member	LARRY JOHNSON & COMPANY, LLC 77 Richburg Road Purvis, MS 39475	601.264.1912
Timbalier Contractors, LLC	Mr. S. Craig Logan, Manager	309 S. 40th Avenue Hattiesburg, MS 39404-5517	601.466.1460
Total Environmental Solutions, Inc.	Mr. Roy Landry, Manager	1824 Ryder Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70898	225.766.4477
Troy E Cobb, Inc.	Mr. Troy E. Cobb, President	3024 Oak Grove Road Hattiesburg, MS 39402	601.296.1313
Western Properties, Inc.	Mr. Wesley M. Breland, Manager	6082 U. S. Hwy. 49 South Hattiesburg, MS 39401	601.582.1911
Westover West Sewage Co. Inc.	Ms. Mary Rayburn, President	1721 Highway 11 Petal, MS 39465	601.584.7346

## **SECTION 8 - STORMWATER DRAINAGE**

Chapter One, Section 7 of this Comprehensive Plan communicates the goal of the County to “vigorously enforce all provisions of the Lamar County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (the 2005 Flood Plain Ordinance)” and to make needed amendments to that ordinance. As a companion to that goal, the objective is to reduce impacts of all residential, commercial, industrial and public/quasi-public development upon surrounding areas. Section 7 also recommended policies requiring developers to incorporate stormwater retention and/or detention basins in all new developments encompassing five (5) acres or more. Associated with the aforementioned goal, objective and policy is a goal of reducing incidents of flooding in Lamar County in all FEMA designated floodplains with the objective of improving storm water drainage in flood prone areas.

The County currently has two primary ordinances that affect development in the floodplain and management of stormwater runoff from developments both during construction and post-construction. These ordinances include the 2005 Flood Plain Ordinance and the Lamar County Ordinance for Stormwater Runoff, Illicit Discharges and Illegal Connections (Model Stormwater Ordinance). Both of these ordinances include, on a very basic level, policies that can assist the County in accomplishing the goals and objectives set forth in Section 7. However, both ordinances are in need of revision/rewriting based on increases in population, urbanization and development that have taken place since adoption of the ordinances.

In addition, Lamar County is a regulated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) under the EPA Phase II Stormwater Regulations. As part of that regulatory requirement, Lamar County is obligated under the provisions of their NPDES MS4 General permit to implement certain practices, procedures, and policies designed to protect water quality in the County and to regulate development activities as they relate to stormwater runoff, water quality, and sediment and erosion control.

### **Recommendations**

In an effort to ensure realization of the goals and objectives outlined in Chapter I, Section 7 of this plan, Lamar County should conduct a review of both the 2005 Flood Plain Ordinance and the Model Stormwater Ordinance and either revise or rewrite as conditions warrant. Both ordinances should be updated to reflect provisions of the Comprehensive Plan as well as other public policies such as the Subdivision Ordinance and pending Zoning Ordinance to ensure consistency. In addition, the County should consider the employment of resources, through consultants or the addition of county-employed human and technological resources to ensure that the capacity exists to effectively monitor, inspect and regulate development activities in the County as they pertain to water quality and water quantity issues.